

Introduced by Senator Huff

April 1, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 104—Relative to Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 104, as introduced, Huff. Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

This measure would declare the third week of September 2014, and the third week of September in each subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Few people know of mitochondrial disease, yet
2 every 30 minutes a child is born who will develop this disease by
3 10 years of age; and
4 WHEREAS, There is no cure for mitochondrial disease; and
5 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is often misdiagnosed; and
6 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease occurs when mitochondria
7 inside of cells fail to carry out their primary functions; and
8 WHEREAS, When mitochondria fail, less and less energy is
9 generated within the cell; and
10 WHEREAS, If this process is repeated throughout the body,
11 whole systems begin to fail, and the life of the person in whom
12 this is happening is severely compromised; and
13 WHEREAS, The disease primarily affects children; and
14 WHEREAS, Diseases of the mitochondria appear to cause the
15 most damage to cells of the brain, heart, liver, skeletal muscles,
16 kidneys, and the endocrine and respiratory systems; and

1 WHEREAS, Common symptoms include muscle weakness and
2 pain, gastrointestinal disorders, poor growth, cardiac disease, liver
3 disease, diabetes, respiratory problems, seizures, visual and hearing
4 problems, and susceptibility to infection; and

5 WHEREAS, Because so little is known about the disease, there
6 are only a few hospitals in the world that offer treatment, causing
7 affected families to travel regularly or even relocate to receive
8 treatment; and

9 WHEREAS, Mitochondrial disease is progressive, likely
10 terminal, and requires a high level of care and extremely expensive
11 medical treatment that often exceeds covered insurance benefits,
12 creating great financial burdens on affected families; and

13 WHEREAS, The third week of September is observed globally
14 as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; now, therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
16 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature does hereby proclaim the
17 third week of September 2014, and the third week of each
18 subsequent year, as Mitochondrial Disease Awareness Week; and
19 be it further

20 Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
21 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.